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Letter written by James E. Calhoun, 1857 June 5

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San Francisco
June 5th 1857

My dear Sir

I have by this mail adressed to Capt Charles P. Stone formerly of the U.S. Army & now a resident in business here, a letter of introduction to you. Capt Stone is a friend of mine, whom I esteem highly for his great personal worth & intelligence - you will find him all that I claim for him. Independendly of the great pleasure I take in making you acquainted with him. I have an object in view of much importance in doing so - which I will state - & which I think you will take an interest in. Certain parties have obtained from the existing Mexican Govt - the remarkable & important privilege of surveying exploring & measuring the State of Sonora in Mexico for which they are to receive compensation by large grants of lands and mines from the Public Domain.

By the conditions of the Contract between the Mexican Govt, & these parties, a Scientific Commission & Company is required to be organized to carry through these purposes, either in the U.S. or Europe. This has been done here, & Capt Stone left for the Atlantic States in the last steamer via the City of Mexico to effect certain preliminary things preparatory to commencing the Survey. There were intended to have been accomplished here, but a difficulty occurred, from the uncertainty of the instructions on certain essential points, to their Agents and Attorneys here by the parties in Mexico - which required to be referred back to them for approval. Should Capt Stone be successful in obtaining this, he will proceed rapidly by Vera Cruz & New Orleans to N.Y. City to endeavor to accomplish what is required there. I am largely interested in this enterprise, & have taken the means of having you meet Capt Stone, & ~~learn~~^{have} from him directly (which can be much better done than through a letter,) a full explanation & understanding of this enterprise, when you will have also an opportunity of reading

the papers connected with it, and also in particular, those organizing the Commission which is an essential one. & for this reason I drew it up with care & clearness. Capt Stone will explain every thing connected with the enterprise without reserve. You will perceive from the sketch, that the funds to carry out the survey are to be provided by a percentage from the Company's portion of the land granted. There may be some modifications made in Mexico, I only speak of things as they were when Capt Stone left here. We have thought N.Y. probably the best, & only place to raise this, in as much as the time is limited within which to do so. I wish you to confer fully with Capt Stone, & take the matter under close consideration, & if it needs your approval as to its importance & feasibility, to render him your assistance. You are well acquainted with N.Y. & Phil^a capitalists, & I have no doubt your judgment & approval will have influence with them.

Should the enterprise succeed, you will
recognize in it, I am sure, an in-
dubitable proof for you are possessing, Sonora
has always been esteemed the richest
of the Mexican States in its mineral
resources. It is also very desirable
as a grazing & agricultural country,
& now assumes a peculiar importance
in its relative position to the U.S., I
have often conversed with intelligent
persons, who have travelled through
the Country, who speak in the highest
terms of its Climate, health & resources.
I might as well state that this very
enterprise is undertaken & organ-
ized, both on part of the Mexican Govt,
& the other parties, with the direct view
to Sonora becoming a part of the U.S.
But I must leave you to Govt. time for
satisfactory information & understand-
ing of its character & advantages, as
it depends upon what he accomplishes
in Mexico & the States, whether it becomes
so important to us or not. If he

June 5, 1857

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is as successful as I expect in Nevada,
it will be with your hearty exertions
to assist him in accomplishing his
remaining objects in the States.

I have had so many things to prevent
me for several successive days from
writing you freely on the subject of the
School Land Warrants, that I must
defer doing so to another opportunity. At
the time I wrote last, I was apprehensive
that the Legislature then in session
would modify the law on the subject,
but it has adjourned without doing
so. I think this among the very rare
is a rare opportunity for speculation
which are occurring on this coast,
I am impressed in my just estimate
of its value.

Give my love to Sister Anna &
the children.

Yours affectionately,
J. C. Calhoun

San Francisco

June 5th 1853

Jas Ed Calhoun

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 1st inst. in relation to the proposed purchase of the land for the establishment of a new prison for the State of California. I have the pleasure to inform you that the Board of Prison Commissioners have decided in favor of the purchase of the land for the purpose of establishing a new prison for the State of California. I have the pleasure to inform you that the Board of Prison Commissioners have decided in favor of the purchase of the land for the purpose of establishing a new prison for the State of California.

Very respectfully,
J. B. Calhoun